

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	
Gregory S. Andre)	Group Art Unit: 2112
Application No.: 09/955,961)	Examiner: Christopher Lee
Filed: September 20, 2001)	Confirmation No.: 1901
For: TWO-LEVEL MULTI-TIER SYSTEM)	
BUS)	

LETTER REGARDING SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

On March 7, 2005, the undersigned met with Examiner Lee in the United States Patent and Trademark Office to discuss the outstanding rejections and Applicant's Request for Reconsideration filed on February 24, 2005 (a copy of which was provided to the Examiner prior to the interview). The undersigned notes with appreciation the courtesies extended by the Examiner during the interview.

The discussions generally centered on why the arbiter described in the cited parts of the PCI publication (Shanley et al., PCI System Architecture, Third Edition, Mind Share, Inc., 1995), which was relied upon in the rejection of independent claims 1 and 17 for allegedly teaching features acknowledged to be missing in the applied Kimura and Yamagami et al. documents, does not teach or suggest claimed combinations of features including arbitration that involves establishing a clear path to a destination device by checking device busy signals to ensure that the destination device is not busy.

Additionally, the undersigned pointed out support for claimed subject matter within the specification and figures.

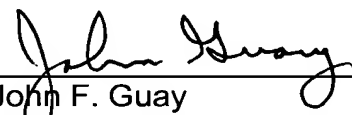
In response to the foregoing discussions and the arguments presented in the Request for Reconsideration, Examiner Lee agreed to withdraw the Section 103 rejection based on the PCI publication in the next communication to Applicant.

It is hoped that this letter clarifies the current status of the present application. If the Examiner disagrees with any interpretation or recollection reproduced herein, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below to resolve any perceived ambiguity.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: March 7, 2005

By: 
John F. Guay
Registration No. 47,248

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 838-6696